

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 10-13, 15-17, 19-21, 24, 26 and 29-34 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 11, 15-17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 29-32, and 34 were rejected as being obvious over cited prior art. Claims 12, 13, 20, and 33 were objected to for depending on a rejected base claim. By this response applicant has amended claims 1, 13, 21, 24, 32 and 34; cancelled claims 10-12, 26, 29, 30, and 33; and added new claim 35. As such, claims 1, 3-5, 13, 15-17, 19-21, 24, 26, 31-32, and 34-35 are presented for the Examiner's consideration in light of the following remarks.

On February 18, 2005, applicant filed a first response to the outstanding final Office Action. An Advisory Action that issued on March 16, 2005 refused entry of the prior response on grounds that the proposed amendments raised new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. On April 12, 2005, applicant conducted a telephone conference with the Examiner who informed that applicant that because the prior response was not entered, any subsequently filed response should present amendments to the claims as if the prior response was never filed. This response is so filed.

B. Proposed Claim Amendments

Applicant has herein amended claims 1, 13, 21, 24, 26, 32 and 34 and added new claim 35. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 10-12. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 33. The amendments to claims 24, 32, and 34 are supported by original claim 21 and have been made to provide proper antecedent basis for the claim language. New claim 35 is the combination of claims 1 and 20. In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the

amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter or raise new issues, and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

C. Rejection on the Merits

Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 11, 15-17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 29-32, and 34 were rejected as being obvious over cited prior art. Claims 12, 13, 20, and 33 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claims 10-12. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 12 was considered to be allowable in the Office Action. Claims 3-5, 13, 15-17, 19-20 and 31 depend from claim 1 and thus incorporate the limitations thereof. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-5, 13, 15-17, 19-20 and 31 are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to claim 1.

Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 33. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 33 was considered allowable in the Office Action. Claims 24, 32, and 34 depend from claim 21 and thus incorporate the limitations thereof. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claims 24, 32, and 34 are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to claim 21.

New claim 35 is a combination of previously pending claims 1 and 20. As such, applicant respectfully submits that new claim 35 is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 20 was considered to be allowable in the Office Action.

No other objections or rejections are set forth in the Office Action. Because the applicant has merely amended the claims to place them in allowable form as set forth in the Office Action, applicant respectfully submits that the claim amendments raise no new issues. Entry of the claim amendments is thus respectfully requested.

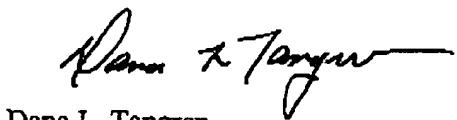
D. Conclusion

Applicant notes that this response does not discuss every reason why the claims of the present application are distinguished over the cited prior art. Most notably, applicant submits that many if not all of the dependent claims are independently distinguishable over the cited prior art. Applicant has merely submitted those arguments which it considers sufficient to clearly distinguish the claims over the cited prior art.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 13, 15-17, 19-21, 24, 31-32 and 34-35 as amended and presented herein. In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Dated this 14 day of April 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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